

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01870 120928Z

54

ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5987

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

1. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NISHIYAMA MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR THAT JAPANESE HAVE FOUND KOREANS QUITE PESSIMISTIC AND NEGATIVE IN DISCUSSIONS OF FORTHCOMING UNGA. KOREAN OFFICIALS HAVE ON SEVERAL INSTANCES SUGGESTED TACTIC OF NOT PROPOSING FRIENDLY RESOLUTION THIS YEAR. MOST PRONOUNCED ADVOCATE WAS BLUE HOUSE ADVISOR KIM KYONG-WON WHO MET WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS DURING RECENT VISIT TO TOKYO. KIM SET FORTH VIEW THAT ROKG WISHED TO CONCENTRATE ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH KEY COUNTRIES RATHER THAN FOCUSING SO MUCH ENERGY ON UN, AND THEREFORE SUGGESTED NOT PROPOSING FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. ACCORDING NISHIYAMA, FONOFF OFFICIALS TOLD KIM THAT, IF UNGA PASSED ONLY PRO-NORTH KOREA RESOLUTION, MOMENTUM FOR RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA WOULD INCREASE IN JAPAN.

2. NISHIYAMA ALSO ASKED ABOUT AMBASSADOR'S RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH FONMIN PARK. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT PARK ALSO TOOK SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR UNGA, BUT ROKG AGREED TO TAKE OPEN-MINDED POSITION IN MAKING PRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING CORE MEETING. NISHIYAMA WAS RELIEVED SINCE HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT KOREANS INTEND MAKE DECISION, THINKING OF ONLY THEIR OWN CONCERNS AND IGNORING PROBLEMS OF THEIR ALLIES.

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01870 120928Z

3. NISHIYAMA ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE HAD TRIED TO ARRANGE

MEETING BETWEEN FONMINS PARK AND MIYAZAWA AT CONCLUSION OF
PARK'S CURRENT ASEAN TOUR. PARK HAD PROPOSED EVENING
MARCH 23 BUT MIYAZAWA WAS NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO LONG STANDING
COMMITMENT TO UPPER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. KOREANS
REJECTED OUT OF HAND COUNTERPROPOSAL OF MARCH 22 OR 24.
NISHIYAMA WAS MUCH DISAPPOINTED SINCE HE FELT FONMINS' MEETING
COULD BE VERY HELPFUL AT THIS TIME.
SNEIDER

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